

I was proud to recommend him. I'm pleased the President nominated him. I'm thankful the Senate acted in a bipartisan way so we can work down our caseload. We need more judges, and the Senate needs to approve more.

THE WRONG PRESCRIPTION

(Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, we've long known that President Obama's takeover of our health care is bad medicine. And now that the Supreme Court has determined that it's one of the largest tax increases in American history, we've confirmed that it's bad policy.

As I travel up and down the Ohio River, I hear repeatedly that this disastrous law must be repealed and replaced with commonsense, patient-centered solutions that will grow our economy.

Today, the House will vote, once again, to repeal this law because it's full of broken promises covered up in empty political rhetoric.

President Obama promised us that this law would lower health care costs, but now we know it will cost more than double what was expected, almost \$2 trillion.

We were promised that the law would create jobs, but 40 percent of American businesses tell a different story.

And finally, we were promised that we'd be able to keep our doctors, but a recent survey says that 83 percent of doctors have considered quitting over the law.

Free market and patient-centered solutions are not only good policies, but they are also the correct medicines for health care reform, not President Obama's Big Government takeover.

TEXAS' DECISION NOT TO EXPAND MEDICAID AND THE VOTE TO REPEAL THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, by refusing to expand Medicaid to cover millions of sick, low-income adults, Texas Governor Rick Perry has joined the growing list of Republican Governors who have decided to put partisan politics before the health of their residents.

6.2 million Texans, including 1.2 million children, lack health insurance, the highest number of any State in the Nation. Medicaid expansion would drastically decrease Texas' uninsured rate from an astonishing 25 percent to just 9 percent.

Without the Affordable Care Act, millions of uninsured Americans will continue to seek primary care in our Nation's overcrowded emergency rooms, leaving taxpayers, property

owners, to foot the bill. As a nonpracticing registered nurse, I am all too familiar with this scenario, which has placed a tremendous burden on our Nation's hospital systems.

Madam Speaker, the highest court in the Nation has spoken, and it's time for us to move forward for the American people.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF SPECIALIST ANDREW SMITH

(Mr. FLEISCHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Specialist Andrew Smith of the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division.

Andrew grew up in my hometown of Ooltewah, Tennessee, and enlisted in the Army after graduating from Lee University. On his first patrol in Kandahar, an IED detonated near him and he lost both of his legs.

I first met Andrew where he was recovering at Walter Reed, where I was impressed by his spirit, curiosity, and determination. His wife, Tori, was by his side the entire time and keeps a constant vigil. Andrew's mother has been active as well, ensuring he receives the best care possible.

A particularly touching tribute is an essay written by Andrew's sister, Katie. She writes:

He was aware of the risks that were involved in being a soldier, but he was so devoted to protecting our freedom that he was willing to sacrifice in a major way. Even though he is away from the war, he is still fighting.

Katie's essay reminds us that our freedom and safety depend on heroes like Andrew Smith who put their lives on the line to defend us. I am humbled to recognize Andrew, and I am pleased his family is able to join him here today in the House gallery.

I will submit Katie's essay for inclusion in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD later. And I speak for all Americans when I say that we are forever grateful.

STOP THE POLITICAL THEATER

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. On January 19, 2011, the Republicans voted to repeal ObamaCare. Thirty other times on the floor since then, they have voted to repeal ObamaCare, or part of ObamaCare. And today, for the 31st time, they will vote to repeal ObamaCare.

How about doing something productive for the American people in terms of lowering health insurance and health care costs instead of your political theater here?

The Supreme Court has ruled. Let's roll up our sleeves and improve what is the law of the land.

I propose that today we should vote on my bipartisan amendment to take away the antitrust immunity of your

friends, the insurance industry, so they can't collude to drive up prices, they can't collude to restrict coverage and divide up markets and make it more expensive for all Americans. The Consumers Union says this would mean a 10 to 25 percent drop in everybody's health insurance in this country.

Let's do something real. Stop the political theater. Let's help the American people get affordable health care and health insurance.

REPEAL OBAMACARE

(Mr. MARCHANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 6079. It hasn't taken very long for the weight of ObamaCare to become a significant drag on our economy and our family budgets.

Just 2 years since it was enacted, there are already 12,825 pages of ObamaCare-related regulations and notices published in the Federal Register. Nobody knows what the final number of regulations will be, and let's hope that we never find out.

It is this high level of uncertainty that is preventing many businesses in my district from hiring new workers and growing. This is particularly true among small businesses looking to expand. We must repeal this law now that is a disincentive for any small business to grow.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for repeal.

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A DEMOCRACY ABOUT PEOPLE AND NOT DOLLARS

(Mr. HIMES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning not to advocate a Democratic position nor to refute a Republican idea. Instead, I rise to highlight a fundamental threat to our ability to have that important debate. I refer, of course, to the hundreds of millions—indeed, billions—of dollars that will influence who comprises this otherwise democratic body, which may very well determine who occupies the Presidency next.

In each of our hearts, those of us in this Chamber called to represent people know that that cannot possibly be right. That is why I will cosponsor two possible constitutional amendments to reverse the damage of Citizens United—H.J. Res. 111 and H.J. Res. 78.

This should not be partisan. Today, it looks like the dollars are behind the Republicans; but tomorrow, that may be different. So let's join, let's stand together for our democracy and back a constitutional amendment to make our democracy about people, not about dollars.